



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Two, Issue 4c



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

After suffering through several years of very slow construction activity, the City of Westminster is beginning to see some hopeful signs of recovery. The Shoppes of Meadow Creek have recently added three new businesses: the Young School, a regional, private pre-school; Walgreen's Pharmacy; and IHOP. All are expected to be open by the end of the year. Another developer is preparing plans for a Chipotle Restaurant at the former Lonestar Restaurant location.

Union Crossing, under the sponsorship of the Episcopal Housing Corporation, has four new homes for sale on Union Street. These homes are now ready for occupancy. More details about these homes can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

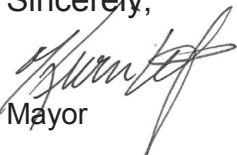
The Common Council approved a number of capital improvement projects for implementation this coming fiscal year. The first of these—replacement of storm drains on East Green Street and Fitzhugh Avenue—has been awarded to Thomas, Bennett & Hunter (TBH) and work has already begun.

Using funds awarded by Program Open Space Community Parks and Playground Program, the City Recreation Department has awarded a contract for the total replacement of the Bishop's Garth playground. In addition, City Park and Dutterers Park benefitted from Project Open Space funds with upgrades for handicap accessibility improvements.

The Maryland Energy Agency awarded the City \$160,000 in grant and no-interest loan funds to retrofit City-owned properties with new lighting fixtures. City Hall, 56 W. Main Street, the Family Center, Public Works facility, Police Department, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Longwell and Westminster Square parking garages will be included in this retrofit project. With over 500 fixtures replaced, the City will achieve significant savings in future energy bills and will also be eligible to receive substantial rebates from BGE for installing the energy-efficient fixtures.

And, since it is never too soon to start planning, we have begun our preparations for the second annual ELECTRIC PARADE to light up the sky in Westminster on November 27th. I hope you are getting your electric float ready—the competition for best float will be very competitive this year! Go to the City's website at www.westminstermd.gov for your application and further details.

Sincerely,


Mayor

Bed Bugs Becoming Bothersome

With stories of bed bugs invading homes in major cities like NYC, Philadelphia, and Detroit, people can easily feel far removed from what seems like a metropolitan problem. But there have also been reports of bed bug infestations in homes around the City of Westminster. Bed bugs are small, flat insects that are about the size of a pencil eraser. Unfed bugs are 1/4 to 3/8 inch long. They are brown or red-brown in color and the upper surface of the body appears crinkled. Recently fed, they are engorged with blood, dull red in color. They can be found in mattresses, furniture and clothing, and feed on human and animal blood.



Bed bugs travel through contact with infested furniture, clothing, and even animals. If someone in your household comes into contact with these insects, they could spread to your home, even if you don't currently have issues. Residents are encouraged to check mattresses and furniture for dark blood spots left behind, and the insects themselves.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warns consumers not to treat the problem on their own or use strong outdoor pesticides. Authorities around the country have blamed house fires on people misusing flammable outdoor chemicals to fight bed bugs. Consumers are also warned that some products like bug bombs, cedar or other natural oils that claim to be lethal merely scatter the bugs out of sight.

Avoid bed bugs in the following ways: inspect mattresses for bugs and blood stains; wash clothes and check luggage when returning home from a trip; don't take furniture or appliances from street corners or alleys; use caution when buying used furniture.

Again, consumers are encouraged NOT to treat bed bugs on their own with chemicals, but there are ways to help eradicate the pests. If bed bugs are in your home, follow these measures: vacuum mattresses, carpets, floors and small crevices, encase the vacuum bag in plastic and quickly dispose of it outside; seal mattresses and box springs with impermeable plastic or vinyl cases; wash and dry all clothing and linens on high heat; eliminate clutter and dispose of items that cannot be cleaned; seal cracks and remove loose wallpaper.

If you need a pest control company, choose one that has extensive experience with bed bugs. The EPA cautions consumers regarding an increase in pest control companies and others making "unrealistic promises of effectiveness or low cost."

If you reside in a rental unit, contact your property manager, leasing office or landlord immediately so that they can take immediate action. If you suspect you have bed bugs and your landlord refuses to help, call your local code enforcement officer or a licensed exterminator immediately. Note: the exterminator may charge a tenant if you reside in a rental and do not get approval from your leasing office or landlord for exterminator services. (*Information from Baltimore Sun newspaper*)



McDaniel College 2010 Homecoming Events

Friday, November 5: *Green Terror Sports Hall of Fame Banquet*; 6pm, Gill Center. The Green Terror Sports Hall of Fame, sponsored by the McDaniel College Alumni Association, is designed to honor former athletes who have acquired prominence in their chosen fields and who also have made contributions to society. The Hall, with its charter induction in 1978, also recognizes other friends of McDaniel College who have contributed significantly to the athletic program. There are now more than 160 McDaniel College greats enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

Saturday, November 6: *Join the Insiders*. Arrive early for best stadium parking, huddle at the Alumni Green Terror Hospitality Tent in Bair Stadium and enter to win a Green Terror Tailgating Basket. Stadium gate opens at 9am, Alumni Hospitality Tent open 9am—4pm.

Dedication of Sisco Hall "Emma's Place": 10am, North Village 183.

Academic Open House—Learn all about McDaniel's new Cinema major; 11am—1230pm, Lewis Hall of Science, B4. Stop by the Video Production Lab to meet faculty and students and hear about one of the newest majors on the Hill.

Homecoming Parade! This year's theme is "Wild, Wild Westminster": 12 noon. The traditional parade begins at Longwell Avenue and continues on Main Street, ending at Bair Stadium. Come out and cheer on the Alumni Association award winners and see student, staff, and alumni floats.

Football vs. Gettysburg: 1pm. Pre-game Coin toss by Alumna of the Year Sally Keck Gold '78. Halftime festivities will include: presentation of the 2010 Homecoming Court; Awarding of the James Brant Memorial Cup to the Greek organization whose members have excelled in academics, varsity sports, leadership and community service; Introduction of the 2000 Centennial Conference Champion Football Team, who are celebrating the 10th anniversary of their incredible season.

Westminster Police Department
Share your crime tip ANONYMOUSLY!

Use your cell phone to text a crime tip ANONYMOUSLY to the Westminster Police Department by following these steps:

To Text Your Tip:

- Text to **TIP411 (847411)**
- Type **TIPWPD**
- Type your message (**100% ANONYMOUS**)
- Send Message

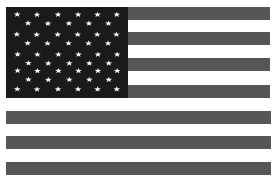


Recreation & Parks Events



Fall Holiday Camp for Kids:
November 22-24 Do you need a safe and fun place to send your 6-10 year old children over the holiday break? Let us help! Register now for fun filled days of crafts, games, sports and snacks. Camp will be held Monday

November 22 through Wednesday November 24. Register for one day or all three. Cost is \$20 per day per child with an additional \$5 per day per child fee for before care (7-9) and after care (4-6). Participants need to bring a bagged lunch and a drink. Snacks will be provided. Dress to get messy and have FUN! Registration and emergency information are required.



November 11 Veterans Day Ceremony

This remembrance service will be held at 4pm at the Westminster Armory (11

Longwell Avenue). The service is open to the public. For more information call The American Legion Post #31 at 410-857-7953 or 410-876-0746.

The Historic Westminster Holiday House Tour



Since 1996, the City of Westminster Historic District Commission has organized and conducted the Historic Westminster Holiday House Tour in some of our historic neighborhoods. The Tour has always been a tradition to bring people together to enjoy the history of local homes, the entertainment of local residents and the joy of the holidays. This year, the Tour will be held in Historic Belle Grove Square.

How does the Tour work? Your ticket comes with a guide book to the Tour (given to you at the Tour). **You can start the tour wherever you want!** Once you pick a house to "explore," you are welcomed into the house by the homeowners and the docents (docents are tour assistants). Where you can walk inside the house is up to the individual homeowner. But it's always fun to see inside these hidden treasures! Please be respectful of their beautiful homes!

Throughout the tour there are various local musicians performing. The times of the performances will be announced November 8, 2010. The list of performers is below. There are refreshments available where the tickets are sold at each of the Churches. After the tour, you can use your ticket to get a discount for dinner at a restaurant in Downtown Westminster. This is the first year there is also a "Silent Auction" held as part of the Event! Please visit the Church of the Brethren during the tour to check out the Auction. All proceeds from the Auction go to the operation of the Westminster Community Center. We hope to see you December 11th!

HISTORIC HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR DETAILS

Saturday, December 11, 2010

3pm to 8pm

Historic Belle Grove Square Neighborhood
A rare chance to see inside some of Westminster's hidden historic treasures!

Tour Tickets

\$10/person in advance (adult or child)

\$12/person at the door (adult or child)

Silent Auction Hosted By
Westminster Community of Shalom

Holiday Entertainment
Homespun Ringers
Children's Chorus of Carroll County
Winters Mill High School Carolers
Westminster High School String Ensemble
Carroll County Celtic Music Group
Westminster Municipal Band
Mountain Dulcimer
Brethren Ringers

Questions? Please contact Melissa Hynes at mhynes@westgov.com or at 410-848-7967.

Visit www.westminstermd.gov for more info.

Upcoming Holiday Events

The Miracle on Main Street Holiday Event Returns to Downtown Westminster!!!

Santa Claus is coming to town once again in a big way on Saturday, November 27th! To celebrate his arrival and the start of the holiday season, Downtown Westminster will be abuzz with the "Miracle on Main Street" Holiday Event. The event kicks off at 3:00 p.m., with the opening of the ticket booths for the children's carnival rides located along Paide Way next to the Westminster Family Fitness Center, 11 Longwell Avenue. The rides and carnival treats will be available until 9:00 p.m. At the same time, the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, will begin screening the classic holiday film *Miracle on 34th Street*, with a "Good Ol' Days" admission price of 25 cents. The film will conclude before the 4:45 p.m., which is the start time of the Wishbone Mile Benefit Run for the Women's Initiative Supporting Health (*WISH*) program. After the movie, you'll have time to find yourself a great spot to watch the race and the ensuing holiday parade. Westminster's 2nd Annual Holiday Electric Parade will kick off at 5:00 p.m. Following the traditional parade route down Pennsylvania Avenue and up Main Street to Longwell Avenue, this acclaimed parade of lighted floats (with more than 2,000 lights on each), marching bands, horses, exotic cars, marching units and, of course, the big guy himself – Santa Claus - will pass in the review through Historic Downtown Westminster.

Immediately following the parade, the City's annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Locust Lane. Join Mayor Kevin R. Utz and other City Officials as he awards the Mayor's Cup to the best decorated storefront in downtown, sings carols to the music of the Westminster Municipal Band and, with help from all of the youngsters in attendance, lights the holiday tree. Closing out the day's free activities will be Santa's Treat for Kids at the Westminster Family Fitness Center, 11 Longwell Avenue, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Santa's Treat is an indoor winter carnival, geared toward children ages 5-12 years of age, featuring games, crafts, activities, and prizes. Santa Claus will be there greeting and visiting with his friends after the tree lighting ceremony. This fun event will conclude at 8:30 p.m. Of course, don't forget to discover all of the great food and drink, as well as shopping opportunities throughout the day in Downtown Westminster. If you do not get into the holiday spirit after such an action-packed day in Downtown Westminster, your last name must be Scrooge! To find out more about "The Miracle on Main Street" Holiday Event, visit <http://www.westminstermd.gov> or call (410) 848-6962.

Santa Claus Returns to Locust Lane on Saturday Afternoons in December

Santa Claus will once again make Locust Lane Park in Downtown Westminster his home away from home on Saturdays during the December shopping season. He is looking forward to seeing his many local friends at his house on Locust Lane across East Main Street from the library from Noon to 4:00 p.m. on December 4th, 11th and 18th. Parents are invited to bring their own cameras to take free pictures of their good little boys and girls with Santa Claus.

Holiday Music at the Westminster Branch Library

Customers of the Carroll County Public Library – Westminster Branch, 50 East Main Street, will be entertained with holiday music on December 11th and 13th. On Saturday, December 11th, at 3:00 p.m., the *Wee Women* of the Children's Chorus of Carroll County will engage in a holiday songfest, singing secular and sacred pieces, as well as songs with an Irish lilt. On Monday, December 13th, at 7:00 p.m., *The Homespun Ringers*, a youth ensemble sponsored by the Westminster Ringers will treat the customers to a variety of handbell repertoire, including sacred, secular, and the classics, to ring in the holidays.

Don't Miss Downtown Westminster's 1st Ever Pajama Party Sale & Contest at Starlight Shopping on Friday, November 26th

Don't miss Starlight Shopping, Downtown's annual, late night holiday sales event on "Black Friday," Friday, November 26th, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Stroll through Downtown Westminster and view the holiday-themed window displays to get into the spirit of the season. Grab a bite to eat at one of our fine eateries to energize yourself before shopping to your heart's content. Check out all of Downtown's shops for those one-of-a-kind gifts you can't find in the mall or the big box stores. Entertainment, such as church choirs or school groups, is presently being scheduled for the event to add an even more festive feeling. Proving that some people will do anything for a special discount, the 1st Downtown Westminster Pajama Party Sale & Contest will be held during Starlight Shopping. During the hours of Starlight Shopping on "Black Friday," the Pajama Party Sale invites shoppers to slip into their footed pajamas, bunny slippers, and other assorted sleepwear to enjoy special deals and discounts. Shoppers entering the PJ contest, to be held at 8:00 p.m., are eligible for awards in the categories of "Best Dressed Individual Shopper in Pajamas," "Best Dressed Pair of Shoppers in Pajamas," and "Best Dressed Shopping Group in Pajamas." After a long day of shopping, why not get in your PJs and relax in Downtown Westminster. For more information on Starlight Shopping and Downtown Westminster's 1st Ever Pajama Party Sale & Contest, visit: http://www.westminstermd.gov/mainstreet/mainstreet_events.html.

Carroll Arts Center Events: November–December

Saturday, November 6, 1pm: Arts Power National Touring Theatre presents "Laura Ingalls Wilder." This uplifting musical follows Laura and her family as they travel across America in search of a place they can call home. Facing obstacles such as a scarlet fever and eviction from their land, their pioneering spirit and family bonds are tested but never broken. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.

GROOVY! November 12–14: Travis, Muriel and Alice decide to throw a free 'Music, Beads and Flowers Celebration'. A popular singing group, the Lemon Bugs, love the idea and donate their talent. In no time, crazily-painted busses start arriving at Crumb's Apple Farm, the site of the festival. Everything is going nicely until Mrs. Porter, who hates "The Love Generation," shows up and demands that the local police close it down. If this wasn't bad enough, two music promoters offer the Lemon Bugs a deal they can't refuse if they will skip the celebration. Showtimes are Nov 12, 7pm; Nov 13, 3pm and 7pm; and Nov 14, 3pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.



Friday, December 3, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 4, 3pm and 7:30pm: "A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas." What do you get when you pair the beloved animated holiday film with a live performance of the film's Vince Guaraldi jazz score? You get a fabulously festive show featuring the renowned Eric Byrd Trio! This annual presentation is always very popular with families as well as discriminating jazz aficionados and is a great way to celebrate the season. Before or after the show you'll be able to enjoy our 13th annual Festival of Wreaths. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.

Friday, December 10, 8pm; Saturday, December 11, 3pm and 8pm: Maryland Ensemble Theatre presents "A Christmas Carol." The acclaimed Maryland Ensemble Theatre brings Charles Dickens' holiday classic to life. Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim are lovingly portrayed in this familiar story of hope and second chances. The whole family will enjoy this beautifully staged production celebrating the true spirit of Christmas. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.

13th Annual Festival of Wreaths

December 1–5, 10am to 8pm daily except Sunday Noon–4. The Festival of Wreaths has been a Westminster holiday tradition for 13 years. This silent auction of more than 200 uniquely decorated theme wreaths is always a hit. Come and see all the amazing creativity on display. Vote for your favorite wreaths.



While you are here you can bid on wreaths for yourself and as gifts for others. Sponsored by PNC Bank and the Carroll County Times. Decorator registration begins October 1st, cost is FREE.



Carroll Arts Center Galleries

October 14 to November 19: "Doing the Ordinary, Extraordinarily." The Carroll County Arts Council is proud to be presenting an exhibit that uses Bodine's work as the cornerstone. "Doing the Ordinary, Extraordinarily" will feature a selection of Bodine's work, focusing on Carroll County scenes, displayed alongside contemporary works inspired by Bodine's images, created by local artists. The 22 artists who were chosen to participate by curator Susan Williamson and Bodine's daughter Jennifer, are truly among Carroll County's finest talent. All have been featured regularly in CCAC exhibits and have won numerous awards in these shows as well as others in the region.



The show will be on view in the Tevis Gallery through November 19.

Several of the artists will be reproducing a Bodine image in their own unique style, others, in the spirit of Bodine, are pushing their media further and harder to see what new outcomes can be obtained. Artwork will be created in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, photography, felt fiber, mixed media and woodblock cut prints. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm Monday – Saturday with extended hours until 8 pm on Thursdays. Gallery admission is free.

October 14 to November 19, 2010: "As We See It"

The Carroll County Camera Club will be presenting a member show entitled As We See It in the Community Gallery. The featured photographs will cover a range of subjects and styles, ranging from journalistic to impressionistic.

We also invite you to visit our club, which is open to both novices and advanced photographers interested in learning about and sharing the joys of photography.

For more information: <http://carrollcameraclub.wordpress.com/>.

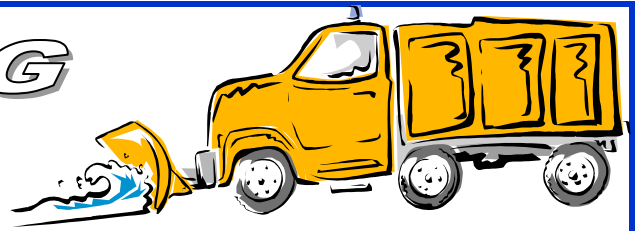
December 9, 2010 to January 8, 2011: "Gallery of Gifts" open from 10am to 4pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and 10am to 8pm on Thursday.

The Carroll Arts Center continues their annual tradition by transforming their Tevis Gallery into the "Gallery of Gifts" during the holiday shopping season. This special cash and carry exhibit will resemble an outdoor craft market rather than a traditional gallery exhibit, as artists display their festive wares in booth-style settings. The show will continue feature the same level of artistic quality that Arts Center visitors have come to expect. There will be a wide variety of hand-crafted creations from inexpensive stocking stuffers to truly elegant special gifts. Local artists combine with regional artists for a distinct flavor of fashion, fantasy and whimsy. To lessen the holiday stress, there will be complimentary gift wrapping for all purchases!

The shopping frenzy will begin at a meet the artists' reception on Thursday, December 9 from 5 to 7 pm. There will be complimentary wine, cheese, hot chocolate and holiday confections and Arts Council members will receive a 10% discount.

SNOW PLOWING

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The City of Westminster is committed to providing safe vehicular and pedestrian traffic under all conditions. The following information is provided to answer questions about our snow removal operations.

How many miles of road need to be cleared in the City? 62.002 miles.

Are there any snow emergency routes within the City limits? No.

Once snow begins to fall, how long does it take the Street Department to begin work? Two salt/plow trucks are on the streets within one hour of notification and ten salt/plow trucks are on the streets within two hours of notification.

How long does it take to salt the streets? Three hours.

How much salt does it take to clear City streets? 50-100 tons per trip.

How much salt is used for a 3 inch snowfall and what is the average cost? 150-300 tons. This year salt is \$61.30 a ton, so material cost is between \$9,195 - \$18,390. Payroll cost is about \$400 per regular hour and \$600 per overtime hour. Total cost is between \$15,000 to \$24,000 for a 10-hour period.

How much salt did we use last year at what cost? Last year 1,642.39 tons of salt traveled 9,828 lane miles at a cost of \$75.60 a ton, totaling \$87,582.60.

When does the Street Department begin plowing? When the accumulation reaches 2.0 to 2.5 inches.

How long does it take for plowing operations? It takes 10 salt/plow trucks and 10 additional trucks approximately five to six hours to remove every three inches of snow.

How fast does a snow plow travel? 5-7 miles per hour is the average speed of a snow plow which limits damage and keeps the snow off the sidewalk.

In what order are the streets plowed? Main collector roads are addressed first, with special attention to steep hills and difficult intersections. These main roads are Bennett Ave, Bond St, N/S Center St, Colonial Ave S, Cranberry Rd, Distillery Dr, Emerald Hill Ln, Englar Rd, E/W Green St, John St, Luther Dr, E/W Main St, Malcom Dr, Pennsylvania Ave, Royer Rd, Tahoma Farm Rd, Timber Ridge Dr, Uniontown Rd, Washington Rd, and WMC Dr. Side streets are next and then dead end streets. The main roads must be cleared even if it means the side streets remain unplowed. Parking lots are cleared after all the streets are finished.

Does the amount of snowfall impact this order? Yes. Once 8-10 inches of snow has fallen, some alleys may not be cleared until the event is over. After 15 inches of snow, the City will concentrate on keeping two-lane traffic on all main roads and one-lane traffic in all developments, while leaving some alleys unclear until the end of the event. The Utilities, Water and Waste Water Departments provide vehicles and drivers to assist the Streets Department during heavy snowfalls.

What do I do if my driveway is blocked because of plowed snow? All snow plows angle the same way—to the driver's right—and when going by your home they will push the snow in front of the driveway. The homeowner is responsible for access to their driveway. The only way to avoid extra shoveling is to wait until the crews have done their final cleanup on the street.

How long do I have to clear my sidewalk? Per City Code, property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalk along their property line within 24 hours after a storm and keeping them clear.